

## Part 2

Read the text and fill the gaps with sentences A-G. Write the letter of the missing sentence in the box in the correct gap. There is one extra sentence you will not need.

### Corsica

Corsica is the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, after Sicily, Sardinia and Cyprus. It is located west of Italy, southeast of the French mainland, and north of the island of Sardinia.

The island has an area of 8,682 sq km, and the island is mostly mountainous. **1**  Ajaccio, the capital, and Bastia are the chief towns and ports. It has a population of around three hundred thousand.

Corsica was once an independent Republic, but it became part of France in 1768. **2**  The island is divided into two administrative departments. French is the official language of the island.

**3**  Although Corsica is considered one of the 26 regions of France, strictly speaking, it is designated as a "territorial collectivity" by law. As a territorial collectivity, it enjoys greater powers than other French regions, but for the most part its status is quite similar.

Much of the island is wild, covered by dense shrubs called maquis, whose flowers produce a fragrance that carries far out to sea. **4**  The maquis also long provided hideouts for bandits, and banditry was not suppressed until the 1930s. Fruit, cork, cigarettes, wine and cheese are the main exports of the island. **5**

Corsica is famed as the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. His ancestral home, Casa Bonaparte, survives to this day. Many tourists come to Corsica simply to see the famed place he was originally from. Corsica has exceptionally good air and sea transport from continental France. It also has more than 200 beaches. **6**

- A. But, in 1077, Pope Gregory VII ceded Corsica to Pisa.
- B. The largest mountain on the island is called Monte Cinto.
- C. For all of these reasons, tourism is very important there.
- D. Also, wheat is produced and sheep are raised.
- E. This flower has earned Corsica the name "the scented isle".
- F. However, most Corsicans also speak a dialect akin to Italian.
- G. It is now considered a region of metropolitan France.

Total: 6 marks